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INFO 12005: 018-4 7-9-99 (PLATIN, BRUCE A.) OR-M

TACT: REPR, RING, AF, UN

SUBJECT: (U) DR. ABDUL HAKIM TABIJI APPOINTED AS MINISTER-COUNSELOR OF AFGHANISTAN'S UN MISSION

REF: KABUL 4006

1. C- ENTIRE TEXT

2. SUMMARY: ON JULY 3, THE DPA INFORMED THE EMBASSY OF THE APPOINTMENT OF DR. ABDUL HAKIM TABIJI TO ITS PERMANENT MISSION TO THE U.N. WITH THE RANK OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR. THE APPOINTMENT IS ONE OF THE DPA'S BETTER SELECTIONS, BUT WE UNDERSTAND THAT TABIJI PLANS TO DEFECT ONCE HE CAN GET OUT OF AFGHANISTAN. END OF SUMMARY.

3. ON JULY 3, THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN (DPA) NOTIFIED THE EMBASSY OF ITS APPOINTMENT OF DR. ABDUL HAKIM TABIJI TO ITS PERMANENT MISSION TO THE U.N. WITH THE RANK OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, AND REQUESTED THE NECESSARY U.S. VISAS. DR. TABIJI WAS SCHEDULED TO DEPART KABUL ON JULY 4, BUT NO ARRIVAL DATE IN NEW YORK WAS GIVEN. ON JULY 3, THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR (PLEASE PROTECT) TOLD THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES THAT HE HAD JUST QUIETLY ISSUED FRENCH VISAS TO TABIJI AND HIS FAMILY. HE THINKS TABIJI, A SENIOR AND DISTINGUISHED AFGHAN OFFICIAL, HAS DECIDED THAT THE MOMENT HAS COME TO DEFECT. TABIJI ONLY AGREED TO BECOME "SECOND BANANA" AT NEW YORK IN ORDER TO GET OUT OF AFGHANISTAN AGAIN WITH HIS FAMILY. TABIJI, A SENIOR DIPLOMAT, RESENTED BEING NAMED A FLUNKY TO A KHALQI POLITICAL APPOINTEE. HIS MAIN MOTIVATION FOR DEFLECTION, HOWEVER, IS THAT HE DETESTS THE KHALQI REGIME.

4. BIOGRAPHIC DATA: DR. TABIBI, WHO WAS BORN AT KABUL ON JUNE 24, 1924, GRADUATED FROM THE FACULTY OF LAW AT KABUL UNIVERSITY IN 1946, AND JOINED THE AFGHAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS THAT SAME YEAR. FROM 1948-53 HE SERVED AS AN ATTACHE AT THE AFGHAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, D.C. WHILE THERE, TABIBI OBTAINED AN M.A. FROM GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY (1952) AND RECEIVED A PH.D. IN LAW FROM AMERICAN UNIVERSITY WITH HONORS (1954). HE WAS THEN ASSIGNED TO THE AFGHAN PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UN FROM 1956-61, AND SERVED CONSECUTIVELY AS FIRST SECRETARY, COUNSELOR, AND MINISTER-COUNSELOR. IN 1961, TABIBI WAS APPOINTED AMBASSADOR TO YUGOSLAVIA. IN 1965, HE WAS NAMED MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY GENERAL AND REMAINED IN THE AFGHAN CABINET UNTIL HIS RESIGNATION IN 1966. IN 1968 HE WAS NAMED AS AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN. FROM 1970-73, HE SERVED AS THE AFGHAN ENVOY TO INDIA. IN MAY OF 1973 HE WAS APPOINTED AS THE AFGHAN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN, WHERE HE SERVED UNTIL THE OCTOBER, 1973 COUP IN WHICH MOHAMMAD DAUD DEPOSED KING ZAHIR. IN 1975 TABIBI WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMISSION (HE HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THAT BODY SINCE 1962). IN MAY OF 1976 TABIBI LOST A BID FOR REELECTION TO THE ILC BUT, IN 1977, SUBSEQUENTLY CHOSEN TO FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF ANOTHER MEMBER. TABIBI SPEAKS GOOD ENGLISH AND SOME FRENCH. HE HAS BEEN ESPECIALLY FRIENDLY TO U.S. OFFICIALS DURING HIS CAREER. DR. TABIBI HOPES TO BE ACCOMPANIED OUT OF AFGHANISTAN BY HIS WIFE, NAJIBA, HIS TWO SONS, ABDULLAH AND NAJIBULLAH, AND HIS DAUGHTER, DINA.

5. COMMENT: THE SELECTION OF THIS ABLE AND EXPERIENCED DIPLOMAT TO RACK OF THE DIPLOMATICALLY INEXPERIENCED DR. SISIMULLAH SARAK (REFTEL) WOULD HAVE BEEN ONE OF THE MORE INTELLIGENT DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENTS YET MADE BY THE KHALQI REGIME; UNFORTUNATELY FOR THE BADLY DEPLETED AFGHAN FOREIGN SERVICE, HOWEVER, ANOTHER GOOD MAN APPEARS TO BE HEADED OVER THE HILL.

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7. STUDENTS ARE BEING ARRESTED AND CONSCRIPTED. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT AS MANY AS 2,000 STUDENTS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED OR "VOLUNTEERED" FOR DUTY IN THE ARMED FORCES. SOME OF THE RECRUITS DO INDEED ENLIST, INDUCED BY THE PROMISE OF PARTY MEMBERSHIP. MANY OTHERS, HOWEVER, ARE SCRAMBLING TO AVOID IMPRISONMENT. THEIR APPREHENSION AND RESENTMENT FOSTER FURTHER TENSION.

8. SPORADIC, LETHAL VIOLENCE ON CAMPUS EVINCES SOME OF THAT TENSION. ON JUNE 23, THE DAY FIGHTING ERUPTED BRIEFLY IN JAGI MARIANO, A BOMB REPORTEDLY EXPLODED IN THE CAR OF A KHALOJ (IN FRONT OF THE FACULTY OF ENGINEERING), KILLING ONE STUDENT AND INJURING TWO OTHERS SERIOUSLY. AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME, ANOTHER BOMB WENT OFF ELSEWHERE ON CAMPUS, APPARENTLY CAUSING NO INJURIES. FURTHERMORE, SOURCES SAY THAT RECENTLY TWO KHALOJ WOMEN STUDENTS WERE SLAIN AND MUTILATED IN A LAB-ORATORY ON CAMPUS. TWO OTHER UNIVERSITY GIRLS WERE REPORTEDLY RECENTLY ARRESTED, TAKEN TO PUL-I-CHARKI PRISON AND RAPED BY SOLDIERS. THE GIRLS WERE SUBSEQUENTLY RELEASED AND ARE NOW HOSPITALIZED.

9. COMMENT: THE UNIVERSITY IS IN FERMENT, NOT UPRISAL. THERE ARE NO INDICATIONS, AS YET, THAT THE REGIME CANNOT DEFUSE THE TENSION, CONTAIN IT, OR CRUSH THE NASCENT DISSENT. NEITHER CAN WE DISCARD THE POSSIBILITY THAT RESTIVENESS AND SPORADIC VIOLENCE ON CAMPUS COULD DEVELOP INTO A SERIOUS PROBLEM FOR THE GOVERNMENT. WE WILL KEEP A CLOSE WATCH ON THE SITUATION AS IT DEVELOPS. BLATIN